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MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

December 11, 1963

Yesterday afternoon Dr. Douglas Sprunt, pathologist at the University of Tennessee, called me in a state of some excitement. He had been led to believe, as all of us had, that NBC was going to use the interview method with doctors. We had first suggested that the doctors have short prepared statements to read but NBC had declined to pursue this method. When the NBC technicians arrived at Dr. Sprunt's office he was advised that they wanted him to make a two or two and a half minute statement and he was not prepared to do this. After several false starts he did manage some statement but does not recollect what he said in detail. He seemed dissatisfied.

I called Hill & Knowlton and Mr. Darrow has arranged to have NBC send Dr. Sprunt a transcript of what he said. If he does not like it I am sure he can withdraw it or arrange to have it done over.

I then called Dr. Burford in St. Louis. NBC had called him from New York five or six days ago and told him that they wanted to conduct an interview with him. He had been told by Jacob that it would be merely the reading of a prepared statement, and with the change in plans, Dr. Burford declined to go forward. He may reconsider since NBC is now following the prepared statement technique.

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I then called Dr. Dunlap, pathologist at Tulane University in New Orleans. His statement is to be taken today and he was forewarned by NBC as to the technique to be employed.

NBC apparently was going to postpone the taking of statements of Drs. Greene and Garland until the day the Surgeon General's Report was issued, but I am now informed by Mr. Darrow that they are going to use the same technique mentioned above and will take their statements at an early date. I will call both of them.

Apparently NBC does not plan to send transcripts of their statements to the doctors unless they request it, but Hill & Knowlton will insist that NBC adhere to the original understanding if such request is made.

F. P. H.